

I would appreciate it if you could express my views to the House Transportation Committee on Thursday, and I urge you to support the RTA legislation when it comes up for a vote.

Thank you,



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From: Loren Crandell

Sent: Friday, September 21, 2012 10:09 AM

To: Joseph Graves (JosephGraves@house.mi.gov)

Subject: HB 5309; Regional Transit Authority

Mr. Graves:

I understand that the House Transportation Committee will be holding an informational hearing on bills to establish a Regional Transit Authority for southeast Michigan on Thursday September 27th. I would like to attend the hearing, however I have other commitments and will not be able to attend.

I live in Grand Blanc Township, and I work at Giffels Webster's Oakland County office. We recently moved our headquarters to Detroit and we have a passion for making communities better, and we believe that the RTA is needed to make southeast Michigan a better place to live work and play. Earlier this year Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood made it clear that Michigan needed the RTA to get his support for public transportation projects.

Earlier this summer I travelled with my family to the Rocky Mountains. We drove across the plain states stopping to rate the barbeque in St. Louis (best ribs) and Kansas City (best pulled pork). Two things impressed me: 1) How beautiful this country is, and what a beautiful place we live in right here in Michigan; and 2) Public transportation in urban areas. Michigan is a very beautiful place to live, but we need to improve many of our cities. I believe that public transportation is an important part of this, and the RTA legislation is one piece of the puzzle. By the way, my trip was bitter-sweet because we were moving my son to a place that he thought was more vibrant than Michigan. The following are some other points to consider:

- Safe, reliable and efficient public transportation will be an economic engine for the region;
- Proximity to public transportation enhances property values;
- Price, Waterhouse Coopers identified locations near public transit as the No. 1 location preference for development of all types;
- Data Driven Detroit states that 140,000 Detroiters commute every day to jobs outside of the city, and up to 40% of Detroiters do not own cars (in parts of Detroit, houses cost less than cars);
- Regional public transit expands the labor market for employers in the region to include all 4.2 million residents;
- People ride transit to either make money or to spend money, and the region needs more of both;
- For many people in the region, public transit is the difference between a paycheck and no check at all;
- Access to safe, reliable public transportation is a location priority for tech-savvy youth; establishing good regional transit will help keep talented youth here in Michigan;
- There is no public transportation between Detroit Metropolitan Airport and downtown Detroit or other destinations in the region, this must change for Michigan and the region to remain competitive;
- The Detroit metropolitan area is the only major metro area in the nation, and perhaps the world, that lacks any form of rapid transit; great cities have great transit.